



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554
SEP 15 1998

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SEP 18 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Christine Wells
164 Flintlock Drive
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Dear Ms. Wells:

Thank you for your letter to President Clinton regarding a "telephone tax" or fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

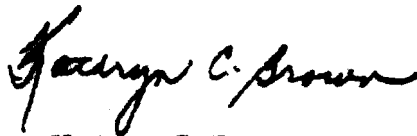
2

Ms. Christine Wells

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Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

CCB 90-46
4-3-58 4999

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR: FCC

FROM: SUE J. SMITH *SJS*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF WHITE HOUSE BULK MAIL


Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring responses to the Presidential letters and inquiries forwarded to your agency. The volume of mail that the President and Mrs. Clinton receive still remains unprecedented.

Please return any misreferrals to me at the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202/456-7486.

Thank you very much.


From nobody@www1.whitehouse.gov Wed Mar 4 11:51:59 1998
Date: Wed, 04 Mar 1998 11:50:04 -0500
From: Christine Wells <littlest@hotmail.com>
Subject: Inbound-White_House_WWW_MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www1.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: Christine Wells <littlest@hotmail.com>
Message-id: <199803041650.LAA18404@www1.whitehouse.gov>

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; ; Register disagreement with a position; No
Answer; Private Citizen;
Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: fre1-109.myhost.com[207.94.169.109]
BROWSER: Mozilla/2.0 (compatible; MSIE 3.01; Windows 95)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Christine Wells
EMAIL-ADDRESS: littlest@hotmail.com
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 164 Flintlock Dr.
CITY: Lakewood
STATE-PROVINCE: NJ
ZIP-CODE: 08701
COUNTRY: USA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register disagreement with a position
TOPIC: No Answer
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: The "Universal Service" for telecommunications service

[Message]

I am writing to express my displeasure with the "Universal
Service" program to fund telecommunications for rural and low
income communities. I will now be paying a minimum of \$12.00 a

year for this program. I think this should be an optional charge. Why should I be required to pay for those who cannot afford cellular service? A cellular telephone is a luxury, not a need! I have my telephone for emergency uses only. Not for calling friends, or getting in touch with a drug dealer. The government should not act like Robin Hood, robbing the rich, to give to the poor. If you cannot afford cellular service, too bad. Don't pass the cost onto those who can. If schools and libraries need telecommunication services, start a charity type program that is optional instead of charging hard working Americans for it. Not to mention the fact that there is no real need for telecommunications in the class room. Why not designate more money for school books and supplies, rather than internet service. Anything that can be found on the internet can be found in a reference book.

Thankfully, as an American, I can vote out the politicians who create these ridiculous programs. But, as an American, I have no voice to stop these programs from becoming law. I only have my vote.